

LEAGUE PLAN HIT BY N. Y. SENATORS

Calder and Wadsworth Unite in Denouncing Constitution Wilson Urges.

SEE PERIL TO NATION

Former Demands Extra Session of Congress at Once to Aid Industry.

Two United States Senators, representing 10,000,000 people, James W. Wadsworth, Jr., and William M. Calder of this State, speaking yesterday before the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, denounced the proposed constitution for a League of Nations as thoroughly dangerous to the liberty of the United States and as subversive of the rule of the people in any land.

The Senators were the guests of honor at a luncheon given by the Brooklyn Chamber on the top floor but one of the tallest building across the East River. Their addresses were heard with every evidence of approval by 500 merchants and manufacturers. Senator Wadsworth confined his address to a discussion of the points of the Wilson plan which most affect this country—the article touching on the Monroe Doctrine and the guarantee of territorial boundaries to be established by the Peace Conference. Senator Calder emphasized the imperative need for a special session of Congress.

Tells Need of Session.
Introduced by H. Kattenhorn, head of the chamber, Senator Calder said regarding the demand for a special session:

"I am convinced that Congress should be in session. When Congress came to a close on March 4 many matters were left undone. Not a single measure dealing with the most necessary reconstruction problems was favorably acted upon. I believe that the President should have remained in this country. Surely there are at least five men among our 110,000,000 people competent to represent the United States at the Peace Conference. But if the President believes that he is the only one fit to handle a matter of this magnitude he should summon Congress together and let them send their affairs to him for approval wherever he may be.

"This great war must be followed by tremendous reconstruction. The railroad question, the shipping question, the reorganization of the army and navy, the great appropriation bills—all are pressing for solution; all must be solved by Congress. This will take time, for they must be examined in the minutest detail. Meantime our country gropes in the dark and much precious time is being lost. Every indication points to an industrial revival the like of which we have not seen in many years. We should meet at once to take up these matters and dispose of them.

"It is essential that we should restore our country to normal business conditions at the earliest possible moment. Our business men are ready. They want a little encouragement from Washington. Our place is at the national capital."

Senator Wadsworth prefaced his discussion of the League of Nations plan by saying it was the most important question that has confronted the American people since our own constitution was offered in 1787, for as the United States shall decide so shall the destinies of generations to come be controlled, he believed.

"I doubt if any one man on earth can comprehend all that it means or signifies," he continued. "But in a discussion of it there is no room for partisanship. It is of vastly greater importance than the political future of any person or group of persons.

World's Happiest People.
"We have existed as a nation for about a century and a quarter. We started out with a well defined policy which we have followed in all of that time. Washington urged his contemporaries and posterity to keep inviolate the idea and conception of liberty which was brought forth here upon this continent and to refrain from entangling alliances with the nations and systems of the old world.

"The advice was supplemented and developed to its logical conclusion by the doctrine of Monroe—that Americans, North and South, would settle American problems, that Europe must not and should not control these settlements directly or indirectly. For nearly 100 years the Monroe Doctrine has been adhered to by our people and tacitly recognized by most of the civilized nations of the earth. I do not think it is unfair or inaccurate to say that during all those years the American people have been the happiest people on earth, and that a good portion of their happiness has been due to their insisting upon avoiding participation in the intrigues and politics of an older civilization.

"America has been the center of the world. We know the happiness that this policy has brought us. The beautiful goal toward which that road has been leading us is still in sight, and it occurs to us that it is scarcely seemly for people who love their country and who want it to be of the greatest possible influence for good in the world to suggest to their fellow citizens that in a moment of time we shall change it.

"Surely if we do decide to change it we modify it we should do so in a serious frame of mind. Let us not say goodbye to the old American policies in a careless, indifferent and hasty manner. If we are to depart from them we might better depart in a spirit of sadness and with the knowledge that we are to travel a road which leads no man knows whither.

Council Heads Superstate.
"I want to call your attention to the ex. Div. Council of the proposed league. This is a piece of machinery which overtops all other phases of the proposal. It is to be composed of the representatives of nine nations. It is clothed with jurisdiction over any matters within the sphere of action of the league or affecting the peace of the world. That is an all comprehensive jurisdiction. If the United States wanted to increase its army or navy to meet some emergency which might arise it could not do so without the permission of the executive council, where we have one vote only."

Senator Wadsworth discussed the powers of the council constituting it an all governing body, the head and front of a superstate. But, he noted, no provision whatever has been made for rules to govern the council or as to how it shall vote, or as to what all constitute a quorum, or as to how the members shall be appointed, or as to how long they shall serve or as to what their compensation shall be. It is left to make its own rules, to sit as a court, to make laws and to hold administrative functions. Then Senator said:

"Is this democracy, this proposal? Does this mean greater freedom to the world? How can any nation appeal from the decision of the executive council? The contention is that a League of Nations need not comply if the council order it to provide men and money to subdue a

recalcitrant State. That suggestion is unworthy. The United States does not enter into treaties in that spirit. If it is contended that any nation may avoid the obligations of the league—and this is the statement—then the whole thing becomes a detestable scrap of paper. And we have had too much of scraps of paper in this world."

The doubtful character of the instrument was illustrated by Senator Wadsworth as follows:

Doubts Its Possibility.

"Isn't it asking too much of human nature to set up this great international force, which shall control the destinies of hundreds of millions of Christians, hundreds of millions of Moslems, hundreds of millions of Buddhists, of the white race all over the earth, of the yellow race, of the black races? Is it humanly possible to erect and maintain such a piece of machinery?"

"The human race is restless. Its restless accounts for its progress. Let us be careful not to attempt to put a straitjacket upon human actions. Under Article X, each member of the league undertakes to preserve against external aggression the territorial rights and the political independence of every other member of the league, and the executive is authorized to call upon each member of the league to contribute men and money to enforce that guarantee. It is a guarantee.

"We might feel safe perhaps in entering into such a contract if we were confident that the boundaries of all the nations of the earth as they shall be settled in this year 1919 were absolutely right and would remain right forever. But history tells us that great migrations of human nations start at some remote corner of the world and flow over the face of the earth with irresistible power, wiping out political boundaries, establishing new conditions, resulting in new conceptions of liberty, new conceptions of politics and government, changing economic conditions and industrial conditions and changing the appearance of the face of the earth. All written history, indeed, is replete with instances of that sort.

Couldn't Have Helped Cuba.
"Think of 1898. An intolerable condition arose in Cuba. Two million people were bitterly oppressed and denied the right to live their own lives. America near by could not stand it any longer. She wanted to lift those people up and give them freedom, and we fought the war of 1898. Had Article X been in force in 1898 every member of the legislature would have attacked the United States because the United States was attacking the territorial integrity of Spain."

Senator Wadsworth said it is unthinkable that war's horror will not be eliminated, but he believed that great goal could be achieved without destroying the freedom of the American republic and without imperiling democracy the world over.

"Why not a conference of the nations to write a code of international law?" he asked. "With a code of right and justice laid down and an agreement among the great nations to support it what more is necessary?"

After the luncheon the Senators and other guests of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce accompanied Brig.-Gen. H. C. Marshall on a trip of inspection of the great war base which the United States Army has established along the Bay Ridge waterfront.

ASKS CHAMP CLARK FOR LEAGUE VIEWS
Mays Demands Ex-Speaker Come Out in the Open.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Champ Clark was asked to declare his position on the League of Nations in a telegram sent to him at New Orleans by Representative Mays (Utah), who repeated his assertion that the former Speaker had said in his presence that the league constitution "has as much chance of being ratified as you have of being Pope of Rome." Mr. Clark had publicly denied making such a statement.

Mr. Mays, whose message, made public to-night by the organization of Democratic members of the House who oppose the selection of Mr. Clark as minority leader in the next Congress, said the former Speaker's reference to the league was made on the day Senator Reed (Mo.) spoke against it in the Senate, and that Mr. Clark had declared Mr. Reed's argument "was unanswerable."

"All other prominent public men have announced their position on this vital public question," said Mr. Mays. "Even Bryan from a sick bed declaring the covenant of peace to be the greatest forward step in a thousand years, suggesting minor amendments. May we ask what are your suggestions? We desire you to come out in the open like other public men assuming to lead in official positions. We remember you did not vote for the war resolution and that you spoke and voted against the selective draft urged by the President. We remember your attitude throughout the period of the war as being out of sympathy with the Administration and the majority of your Democratic colleagues.

"Do you propose to act in harmony with the majority view or to compel the majority to act in accordance with your views? Are you with Lodge, Penrose, Borah and Reed or are you with the President and for the League of Nations?"

U. S. MAY REFEREE ITALIAN DEMANDS

King Victor's Government Goes Beyond Even the Treaty Signed in London.

FUIME ADDED TO LIST

Possibility That Rome Delegates May Be Excluded if Council Considers.

By H. WICKHAM STEED.

Editor of the London Times.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times Service.

Paris, May 15.—Considerable comment has been aroused here of a publication of the Italian territorial claims as a form of official telegram from Rome. None of the great Powers previously had adopted this procedure, which has its obvious disadvantages. Publication of national claims exposes the claimant Government to the reproach of having failed to carry out its national program in case the conference curtails its demands and for that very reason tends to impart an uncompromising rigidity to a Government by cutting off its line of retreat. There is, consequently, some speculation as to the reasons for such action on the part of the Italian Government at this juncture.

The conclusions that seem to have been reached in well informed quarters are approximately as follows: Having rejected President Wilson's scheme in the Italo-Yugo-Slav dispute the Italian Government was obliged to pin its faith to the London treaty of 1915, despite the consideration that engagements entered into by Italy, France and Great Britain, when they signed the armistice with Germany, rendered that treaty subject to revision in so far as its terms might be incompatible with the provisions of the armistice and notwithstanding the circumstance that American representatives have on more than one occasion declared that the United States declines to take any account of the London treaty or to sanction any peace settlement based on it.

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At the same time Italy herself is in

a difficult position as regards the treaty, since she has latterly put forward a claim to the possession of Fuime, which the treaty does not assign to her. Her specter might be a useful basis for bargaining if settlement of the Adriatic question could be reserved to a council of the five big Powers. In this case she could have been at once claimant and judge, while the hands of France and Great Britain would have been tied by the treaty that they are signatories to the treaty.

If the report be accurate this expectation has recently received a rude shock. The Yugo-Slav delegation has made a formal request to attend the sitting of the five big Powers when the Adriatic question should be discussed. One Italian representative admitted the possibility of allowing the Yugo-Slavs to present their case to the council, but he urged that when the council of big Powers came to take decision the Yugo-Slavs must be excluded.

Another Italian representative contested the right of the Croats and Slovenes to be heard at all, arguing that they were enemy peoples who ought to be placed in the same category as the Germans and ignoring the circumstance that if they continued to fight against Italy it was only because the London treaty proposed to make over to Italy much of their territory.

Ultimately an American representative indicated that in the opinion of the United States the Yugo-Slavs must be allowed to present their case and that if there were subsequently any question of exclusion the Italians and Yugo-Slavs must be excluded, since both were directly parties to the dispute. The council, he urged, could then judge between them as a tribunal.

This eminently fair proposal seems to have been received with some dismay in Italian quarters. Publication of extracts from the Italian memorandum of claims in the form of an official telegram possibly may be the Italian rejoinder to the American suggestions.

Nevertheless it is pointed out that the Italian telegram itself suggested the way out of difficulty. It states that: "The Italian claims are founded not only on the conventions regulating Italian participation in the war but have the objective foundation of justice, legitimacy and moderation and come fully within the framework of President Wilson's fundamental principles."

Obviously President Wilson himself is the person best qualified to judge whether or not Italian claims come "within the framework of his principles. An excellent solution of the dispute might be found therefore were the council to entrust him with the task of deciding in the light of impartial studies made by American experts whose conscientious work in many directions already has earned the admiration of the conference.

FIVE NEUTRALS WILL JOIN LEAGUE DEBATE

Argentina to Urge Changes in Wilson Draft.

PARIS, March 15.—The invitation sent by the Peace Conference to neutral States to participate in a discussion of the League of Nations has brought responses from Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. These countries have forwarded statements on their views to the secretary of the conference.

AMSTERDAM, March 15.—The Dutch Government has not yet begun discussions with other small nations in reference to the League of Nations, the Minister of the Interior announced in a

speech Thursday in the Upper Chamber of the Dutch Parliament at The Hague. The Minister added that the Government considered it should observe a waiting attitude regarding the league only in the case of extreme necessity, he said, should there be a separate grouping of nations against the league.

BUENOS AIRES, March 15.—The Foreign Minister held a long conference with Ministers of neutral Powers yesterday. The neutral Ministers were informed that Argentina will answer the invitation from Paris to join the League of Nations, which Foreign Minister Pueyrredon said was accepted in principle by this country. He said, however, that some changes would be suggested. Senator Alvarez, the Argentine Minister at Paris, has been instructed to sound the delegates to the conference, and especially neutral observers, regarding these changes. No details of the suggestions will be made known until

Senator Alvarez acts. After the conference the Foreign Minister cabled instructions to Senator Alvarez. It is understood that the object of the conference was to seek the support of other South American neutrals for Argentina's proposals.

TRANSPORT SINKS WITH NINE.
Yaelhaven of United States Service Strikes a Mine.

LONDON, March 15.—Nine sailors are reported drowned in the sinking of the American naval transport Yaelhaven, which struck a mine at 1:35 o'clock Friday morning according to a report to Lloyd's. The Yaelhaven was bound from Baltimore to Copenhagen. Thirty-five survivors have been landed at Hattlepool by a British steamer.

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